

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Original)** A sialogogue comprising polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof.
2. **(Original)** An oral composition incorporated with the sialogogue defined in claim 1.
3. **(Original)** A food product incorporated with the sialogogue defined in claim 1.
4. **(Currently Amended)** ~~Use of~~ A method of treating xerostomia, said method comprising:  
administering a polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof as a sialogogue to a patient in need thereof.
5. **(New)** The method of claim 4, wherein the amount of polyglutamic acid or salt thereof is 0.001 to 10% by weight.
6. **(New)** The method of claim 4 or 5, wherein administration is 1 to 6 times a day.

7. (New) The oral composition of claim 2, wherein the oral composition is a toothpaste, mouthwash, chewing tablet, oral ointment, gargling tablet, troches, artificial saliva, denture stabilizer or solution for the oral care system with water supply and suction functions.

8. (New) The food product of claim 3, wherein the food product is a swallowing assistant, candy, chewing gum, a drink or gummi.